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AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; CREATING THE CHILDREN'S CABINET;
PROVIDING GOALS AND DUTIES OF THE CHILDREN'S CABINET.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Children's Code is
enacted to read:

"SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Children's
Cabinet Act"."

Section 2. A new section of the Children's Code is
enacted to read:

"CHILDREN'S CABINET CREATED.--

A. The children's cabinet is created and is
administratively attached to the office of the governor. The
children's cabinet shall meet at least six times each year.

B. The children's cabinet shall consist of the
following members:

- (1) the governor;
- (2) the lieutenant governor;
- (3) the secretary of children, youth and
families;
- (4) the secretary of corrections;
- (5) the secretary of human services;
- (6) the secretary of labor;
- (7) the secretary of health;

1 (8) the secretary of finance and
2 administration;

3 (9) the secretary of economic development;

4 (10) the secretary of public safety;

5 (11) the secretary of aging and long-term
6 services;

7 (12) the secretary of Indian affairs; and

8 (13) the secretary of public education.

9 C. Each year the children's cabinet shall select
10 the governor or lieutenant governor to be the chairperson."

11 Section 3. A new section of the Children's Code is
12 enacted to read:

13 "POWERS--DUTIES--GOALS.--

14 A. The children's cabinet shall study and make
15 recommendations for the design of a coordinated system to
16 maximize outcomes among children and youth under age
17 twenty-one, particularly those in disadvantaged situations,
18 in the following areas:

19 (1) physical and mental health fitness;

20 (2) family and community safety and support;

21 (3) preparedness for and success in school;

22 (4) successful transition to meaningful and
23 purposeful adulthood and employment; and

24 (5) valued contributions to and active
25 participation in communities.

1 B. Departments participating in the children's
2 cabinet may enter into joint powers agreements pursuant to
3 the Children's Cabinet Act.

4 C. At least twice each year, the children's
5 cabinet shall meet with parents, children, youth, educators,
6 public officials and representatives of faith-based
7 organizations, community-based organizations, philanthropic
8 organizations, public schools and public school districts,
9 colleges and universities, health care providers, nonprofit
10 organizations, youth service providers, political
11 subdivisions, the interim legislative health and human
12 services committee and the legislative education study
13 committee. The children's cabinet may coordinate with these
14 persons as needed to design or implement the coordinated
15 system.

16 D. By September 1 of each year, the children's
17 cabinet shall report and make recommendations to the governor
18 and the legislature, including:

19 (1) a child and youth report card that
20 identifies the status and well-being of children and youth,
21 including special target populations of children and youth
22 that are disproportionately at risk, based on the outcomes in
23 Subsection A of this section; and

24 (2) a child and youth policy and inventory
25 budget identifying state programs and initiatives that affect

1 the well-being of children and youth, including proposed
2 budget allocations toward the outcome areas in Subsection A
3 of this section based on age, ethnicity and special target
4 populations as determined by the children's cabinet."

5 Section 4. A new section of the Children's Code is
6 enacted to read:

7 "CHILDREN'S CABINET DEPARTMENT LIAISONS.--Each member of
8 the children's cabinet shall name an employee to serve as a
9 liaison to ensure coordination and communication among
10 departments and agencies and to address cross-jurisdictional
11 issues in an efficient, effective and expeditious manner."=====

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